

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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P R 231100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9949

INFO AMECONSUL DHAHRAN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SA

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SURVEY

REF: (A) JIDDA 0430

(B) STATE 3601

SUMMARY: PRINCE NAIF EXPRESSES DESIRE TO PRICEED WITH SURVEY AND PROMISES TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN SHORT ORDER. PRINCE ASKS THAT SURVEY TEAM GIVE AT LEAST PRELIMINARY ATTENTION TO FRONTIER FORCES, IN ADDITION TO MINISTERIAL DIRECTORATES ALREADY PLANNED FOR INCLUSION IN SURVEY, WITH AN EYE TO UNDERTAKING LATER, MORE THROUGH SURVEY OF BOTH COAST GUARD AND FRONTIER FORCES. TO SHORTEN TIME BEFORE PRESENTATION OF SURVEY, NAIF ASKS IF TRANSLATION OF REPORT CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN SAUDI ARABIA RATHER THAN IN UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR MET JANUARY 22 WITH DEP. MIN. INTERIOR NAIF, PRESENTED BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARIES OF TEAM MEMBERS AND REQUESTED NECESSARY \$385,000 FOR SURVEY. NAIF INDICATED FUNDS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (AMBASSADOR REQUESTED FUNDS WITHIN SEVEN DAYS TO ENABLE TEAM TO ARRIVE ON JANUARY 31.) WE OPTIMISTICALLY HOPE THAT MINISTRY'S BUREAUCRATIC APPARATUS CAN FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE DESPATCH
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APPARENTLY DESIRED BY NAIF.

2. NAIF NOTED OUR INTENTION TO EXCLUDE COAST GUARD/Frontier FORCES FROM SURVEY AND EXPRESSED A DESIRE THAT AT LEAST AN INITIAL LOOK BE GIVEN TO THE FRONTIER FORCE, PARTICULARLY THEIR ANTI-SMUGGLING MISSION. HE ALSO HOPED THAT THE TEAM'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS COULD GIVE ATTENTION TO CG/FF TELECOMMUNICATIONS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT SURVEY OF COAST GUARD WOULD BE BEYOND EXPERTISE OF PRESENT TEAM, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR TEAM TO MAKE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF FRONTIER FORCES ELEMENTS TO DETERMINE WHAT A LATER, MORE COMPLETE SURVEY WOULD REQUIRE. EMBASSY WOULD INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF LATER SURVEY TEAM FOR COAST GUARD, SAID AMBASSADOR (SUBJECT SEPTTEL).

3. PRINCE NAIF REMARKED THAT TIME TO BE ALLOWED FOR PRINTING AND TRANSLATION OF REPORT SEEMED OVERLY LONG. HE HOPED THAT TRANSLATION MIGHT BE ARRANGED IN SAUDI ARABIA (PERHAPS NECESSARY IN ANY CASE TO INSURE CONFORMITY WITH MINISTRY'S TERMINOLOGY). AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS SEEMED SENSIBLE, NOTING THAT ONE OR TWO TEAM MEMBERS MIGHT REMAIN DURING TRANSLATION PERIOD, TO CLARIFY QUESTIONABLE POINTS.

4. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE WHAT IMPLEMENTATIVE ROLE USG MIGHT PLAY FOLLOWING THE SURVEY. CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO POLICE TRAINING MADE OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA UNLIKELY, BUT IN FIELDS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, FIRE-FIGHTING, CIVIL DEFENSE, AND PERHAPS OTHER PERIPHERAL AREAS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN SOME WAY. IN ANY CASE, SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE WRITTEN IN SUCH FORM THAT MINISTRY COULD USE THEM TO SOLICIT BIDS FROM PRIVATE FIRMS, AMERICAN OR EUROPEAN, OR EVEN FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. NAIF INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD RESTRAINTS IMPOSED BY NEW LEGISLATION AND BY CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT, BUT HOPED USG WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS NEW CONDITIONS ALLOW.

5. IN VIEW OF RESTRAINTS ON POSSIBLE FUTURE USG ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE CAST IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN, WITH LITTLE IF ANY CHANGE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE USED BY MINISTRY AS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO SOLICIT BIDS FROM PRIVATE FIRMS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OR SELL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THUS, TEAM SHOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS WITH EXPERIENCE IN DRAFTING REQUESTS FOR CONTRACT PROPOSALS. EMBASSY WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MINISTRY AND NOTIFY WASHINGTON AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE RECEIVED.

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